



Borough of Slough

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# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1954

*including the*

# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

Chief Sanitary Inspector



# BOROUGH OF SLOUGH

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## HEALTH AND SANITATION COMMITTEE

January to May, 1954.

*Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR F. S. G. ROOM, J.P., C.C.

*Vice-Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR A. SIMPSON

ALDERMAN REG. C. ABBOTT, J.P. (Mayor) (ex-officio).	COUNCILLOR MRS. N. B. DENMAN.
ALDERMAN J. MANNING. (Deputy Mayor) (ex-officio).	COUNCILLOR MRS. J. M. B. GIBSON.
ALDERMAN MRS. M. J. MORGAN.	COUNCILLOR MRS. D. M. MITCHELL.
ALDERMAN A. E. WARD, C.A.	COUNCILLOR J. H. SMITH.
COUNCILLOR F. C. BOWYER.	COUNCILLOR F. WARWICK.
	COUNCILLOR R. T. CRAWSHAW.

May to December, 1954.

*Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR F. S. G. ROOM, J.P., C.C.

*Vice-Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR A. H. BOND.

ALDERMAN J. MANNING, J.P. (Mayor) (ex-officio).	COUNCILLOR MRS. J. M. B. GIBSON.
ALDERMAN MRS. M. J. MORGAN.	COUNCILLOR A. SIMPSON.
ALDERMAN A. E. WARD, C.A.	COUNCILLOR J. H. SMITH.
ALDERMAN F. WARWICK.	COUNCILLOR T. A. WATSON.
COUNCILLOR F. C. BOWYER.	(Deputy Mayor) (ex-officio).
COUNCILLOR R. T. CRAWSHAW.	COUNCILLOR W. C. WEST.

# Public Health Department Staff

## Medical Officer of Health :

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

## Chief Sanitary Inspector

LESLIE A. STROUD, D.P.A., F.R.SAN.I., F.S.I.A. (1. 3. 4. 5.)

## Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector

J. SAGAR, D.P.A., M.S.I.A. (2. 3. 4. 5.).

## District Sanitary Inspectors :

L. HAGUE, (2. 3.). M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

D. A. OWEN (2. 3.). (appointed 15.3.54)

I. D. PRESTON, (2. 3.). M.S.I.A.

R. I. SHEPHERD M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H. (2. 3. 6. 7.)  
(appointed 27.9.54),

R. B. C. SMITH, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (2. 3.).

B. C. UPTON, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (2. 3.).

## District Sanitary Inspector (Junior):

T. P. JARRETT (2). (Resigned 19.5.54.)

## Pest Control Officer :

J. H. HYATT

## Secretary/Senior Clerk :

MRS M. L. CORK.

## Laboratory Technician/Mortuary Assistant :

C. G. WOOD.

## Public Analyst :

ERIC VOELCKER, A.R.C.S., F.I.C.,  
Stuart House, 1, Tudor Street, London, E.C.4.

## KEY TO QUALIFICATIONS.

1. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
2. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector.
3. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
4. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Smoke Inspector.
5. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Building and Public Works.
6. Final examination of the Institute of Housing.
7. Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
"GLENHARTIE,"  
15, BATH ROAD,  
SLOUGH.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Slough.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my sixth Annual Report for the year 1954.

The year will be remembered, historically, as the one in which the results of years of hard work and planning began to take effect. As the sewage facilities improved and restrictions on building could very largely be relaxed, building, both public and private, began to be resumed on a very considerable scale and houses and estates which had to remain on the drawing board for some considerable time began to be erected. In July, the first of the houses which the Borough Council are building on the new Wexham Farm estate, just outside the Borough, were inhabited and in October the London County Council began its first lettings on the new Langley estate. Although the number of people rehoused on both these estates by the end of the year was not great the magnitude of the layouts and the number of houses under construction was impressive.

So far as the vital statistics for the year are concerned, infant mortality once again deserves special mention. The rate for all infants dying during the first year of life was only very slightly in excess of 20 per thousand and well below the previous lowest figure recorded in the town. The crude death rate, too, was a little lower than in 1953 and only in 1942 was a lower rate recorded. Still-births were, unfortunately, somewhat higher than in the previous year. The birth rate, which had been showing a steady decline since 1949, rose to 13.68 per thousand of the population and the ratio to the National rate was the highest since 1949.

So far as infectious diseases were concerned 1954 was a good year. Scarlet Fever was well below the average, the number of cases of Whooping Cough had never been fewer and the twenty-nine cases of Measles had only been equalled once. The viruses of Poliomyelitis were once again kind and only produced one paralytic and one non-paralytic case; not since 1946 had there been so few cases.

Tuberculosis, however, was somewhat disappointing, the number of deaths rising from six to nine and the number of notifications from fifty-nine to seventy-six, a number which was, however, exceeded in all the years from 1948 to 1952.

Heart diseases and cancer were still the most frequent causes of death, with vascular lesions of the nervous system a close third. Pneumonia and bronchitis, although still fourth in the list, caused 24 more deaths than in 1953, and "other diseases of the circulatory system" rose from 18 to 31. Accidents caused 13 deaths but suicides, which had displaced tuberculosis from the seven most common causes in 1953, was responsible for only five deaths in 1954 and tuberculosis appeared on the list once again. Following the principle started last year of showing which diseases caused the greatest loss of working years, cancer caused the greatest economic disturbance and rose to the top of the list, while pulmonary tuberculosis jumped from seventh to fifth place.

A number of pieces of new legislation were enacted during the year, two of which caused considerable immediate additional responsibilities and duties to the Health Department. The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which came into operation in August not only laid down new statutory standards of fitness of houses but also amended previous legislation concerning grants for the improvement and conversion of houses and also provided for rent increases under certain conditions. In addition to this provisions were made concerning slum clearance and work commenced on a survey of houses to prepare a report on the number of houses considered unfit for human habitation. The report was due to be in the hands of the appropriate Minister by August, 1955.

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, only came into operation in October but it did, in fact, cause the greatest immediate difficulty. A detailed description of the negotiations and decisions of the Borough Council has been included in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's section of the report but I feel that mention must be made of the fact that the Corporation operated the Cippenham Lodge Slaughterhouse as a Public Slaughterhouse from 2nd July, the Chief Sanitary Inspector being appointed as manager. The maintenance of efficient control involved the Sanitary Inspectors in a considerable amount of evening work.

The work of the Sanitary Inspectors with regard to Food Hygiene continued. No spectacular system of Food Guilds or display of Food Hygiene Certificates is operated in this town as it is preferred to rely upon inspection and quiet negotiation with those in charge of food premises. A fair minority of premises were found to be well above the standard required by law but far too many only comply with minimum requirements and some, fortunately only a small minority, seem to find themselves unable to rise to even these rather poor requirements. The process of improvement is slow as it always will be when negotiation is the method of persuading those in charge to exceed the provisions of the law but the public have, to some extent, the remedy in their own hands. Admittedly many people hesitate to cause a scene in a shop, a cafe or restaurant, but they could with a little determination pass their complaints to the Health Department or where there is a choice in the locality, withdraw their custom from premises whose cleanliness falls below a reasonable standard.

1954 will not, perhaps, in retrospect appear to be an outstanding year but it was one which was full of hard work and there is little doubt that without the continued loyal support of the staff during the year, the achievements in the field of Public Health would have been greatly diminished. To all the Staff I would like to record my thanks.

To the Health and Sanitation Committee and to the Council I would wish to express my appreciation for the support and assistance which they gave to the Department and to Public Health throughout the year. To Councillor F. S. G. Room, J.P., C.C., the Chairman of the Health Committee, a special word of thanks is due for his continued and very active interest in all aspects of preventive medicine.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT,

*Medical Officer of Health*

NOVEMBER, 1955.

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1954

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area .....	6,276	acres
Population : Registrar-General's Estimate for mid-1954 .....	67,090	
Number of dwelling houses, including flats, at 31st March, 1955 .....	18,175	
Rateable value as at 31st March, 1955 .....	£637,169	
Estimated Product of Penny Rate, 1955/56 .....	£2,640	

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954.

Live Births :				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	480	448	928
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	23	24	47
Total .....				503	472	975

Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	—	14.53
Corrected Birth Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) .....	—	13.68
(Comparability factor—0.92)		
National Birth Rate .....	—	15.2

Still Births :				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	7	18	25
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
Total .....				7	18	25

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births .....	—	25.0
Still-birth rate per 1,000 population .....	—	0.37

Deaths :				Males	Females	Total
Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population)				257	253	510
Corrected Death Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) .....				—	7.60	
(Comparability figure—1.23)				—	9.35	
National Death Rate—11.3 per 1,000 population.						
Ratio of Local Death Rate to National Rate—0.83.						

### Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age).

Deaths :				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate.....	.....	.....	.....	10	9	19
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	—	1	1
Total				10	10	20

Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births .....	20.51
National Rate per 1,000 live births .....	25.5

# **Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.)**

Deaths :	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .....	5	5	10
Illegitimate .....	-	-	-
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>

Rate for all infants under 28 days of  
age per 1,000 live births ..... — 10.26

## **Death Rates per 1,000 population :**

Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	0.10
All forms of Tuberculosis .....	0.13
Cancer .....	1.43

## **Other Deaths :**

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cancer .....	55	41	96
Whooping Cough .....	-	-	-
Measles .....	-	-	-
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary .....	5	2	7
Non-Pulmonary .....	-	2	2

## I. VITAL STATISTICS.

### BIRTHS.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar-General credited the Borough with 975 live births in 1954 : 503 were males and 472 females.

The crude birth rate at 14.53 per 1,000 of the population was 0.33 greater than in 1953 (14.20). By multiplying the crude birth rate by the comparability figure of 0.92 we obtain the corrected birth rate of 13.68. The birth rate of England and Wales as a whole was 15.2 and the ratio of the Slough rate to the National rate was 0.9 : 1.

The table below gives comparisons between the National and local rates since 1949 and from this it will be seen that the Slough rate, although still well below the National Average, comes more nearly to it than it has for some years.

Year	Corrected Birth Rate, Slough	Birth Rate, England & Wales	Ratio Slough : England & Wales	
1949	15.84	16.9	0.94 :	1
1950	13.79	15.9	0.87 :	1
1951	13.62	15.5	0.88 :	1
1952	13.38	15.3	0.88 :	1
1953	12.64	15.5	0.81 :	1
1954	13.68	15.2	0.9 :	1

The fact that the comparability figure for births is less than 1.0 and that for deaths is greater than 1.0, means that the population of Slough is younger than that in the country as a whole. It would be expected, therefore, that the local crude birth rate would be in excess of the National rate but this has not occurred for some years. The reasons may be many and varied but, if as many think, inadequacy of housing is a major contributing cause to a depression in the birth rate then the increased housing programme of the Borough Council and the better standards of housing provided for newcomers on the London County Council estates should lead to a fairly rapid increase in the birth rate during the course of the next few years.

Trends in the birth rate must, therefore, be watched with great care so that adjustments may be made as required in the volume of services to be provided particularly as regards maternal and child welfare and education.

### ILLEGITIMACY.

The number of illegitimate births showed a considerable fall this year : 7 as compared with 62 in 1953. This means that 4.82 per cent. of births were illegitimate, a fall of 1.7 per cent.

The percentage of illegitimate births varies quite considerably from year to year and as small numbers are being used in the comparisons this is not surprising. The average percentage over the past 7 years has been 2 and the figure for 1952 is somewhat below this.

## STILL-BIRTHS.

25 Still-births were registered during the year and all were legitimate. This number, which gives a rate of 25 per 1,000 total births, or 0.37 per 1,000 of the population, is unfortunately higher than for 1953 (16.55 and 0.25), which was a low record. The provisional National Rate for 1954 was 24.00 per 1,000 total births. This rise appears to be very considerable but once again fluctuation must be expected when dealing with small numbers.

A thorough investigation was made into each case and all were deemed to be "inevitable," that is to say medical facilities were available and were used in time and to the greatest effect.

## DEATHS.

After correction for transferable deaths the number assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General was 510 (257 males and 253 females), a decrease of 4 on the total for 1953. The crude death rate was 7.60 per 1,000 of the population compared with 7.68 in 1953. After multiplying by the comparability figure (1.23) the corrected rate found was 9.35 compared with the National Rate of 11.3 and 11.1 for the 160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London). The corrected rate for Slough in 1953 was 9.27.

The seven main causes of death during 1954, in numerical order, were :

Heart disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	171
Cancer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	96
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	91
Pneumonia and Bronchitis.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	71
Other diseases of the circulatory system	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31
Accidents, all types	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Tuberculosis, all forms	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9

While the number of deaths from heart diseases, pneumonia and bronchitis fell slightly, there was a sharp increase in the number of death from vascular lesions of the nervous system. Deaths from accidents fell from 18 to 13 but of this number 5 were the result of motor vehicle accidents the same as in 1953. Suicides, which had risen sharply to 11 in 1953 from 5 in 1952, fell again to 5 in 1954, and this now disappears from the seven most common causes of death. Tuberculosis, on the other hand, which had disappeared from the list in the previous year again claimed attention. The increase in the number of deaths, from 6 in 1953 to 9 in 1954, was not great and probably not unexpected when the phenomenal fall in 1953 is remembered. The number for 1954 is still well below those recorded in previous years.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1953		1954	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	1	5	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	2
3. Syphilitic disease	2	—	1	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	1	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	2	3	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	9	6	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	15	1	19	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	9	—	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	8	—	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	14	30	23
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	2	4	4
16. Diabetes	—	3	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	20	38	25	46
18. Coronary disease, angina	47	25	41	40
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	9	8	4
20. Other heart diseases	37	60	32	46
21. Other circulatory disease	7	11	7	12
22. Influenza	—	6	1	—
23. Pneumonia	8	8	12	5
24. Bronchitis	22	9	17	8
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	5	—	4	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	7	—	3	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	—	1	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	5	1	2	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	1	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	3	3	2	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	28	22	21	26
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	—	4	1
34. All other accidents	6	6	5	3
35. Suicide	10	1	3	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—
All causes	265	249	257	253

## SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1954.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of all deaths attributed to the Borough during 1954 by local Registrars. The figures include all deaths which actually occurred during 1954 even although, in some cases, notification of their occurrence may not have been received until well on into 1955.

For this reason, the figures in the table vary a little from those given by the Registrar-General which are based upon returns received by him only for the period under review as he finds it impractical to carry statistical data into the following year. The local figures are, therefore, more accurate and the difference is not large enough to cause any significant statistical change.

Ages at Death, in Years :				Males	Females	Total
Under 1	.....	.....	.....	11	10	21
1—	.....	.....	.....	4	2	6
10—	.....	.....	.....	3	2	5
25—	.....	.....	.....	19	12	31
45—	.....	.....	.....	92	49	141
65—	.....	.....	.....	28	34	62
70—	.....	.....	.....	— 157	— 109	— 266
75—	.....	.....	.....	29	32	61
80—	.....	.....	.....	32	42	74
85—	.....	.....	.....	28	44	72
90—	.....	.....	.....	8	21	29
95 and over	.....	.....	.....	5	5	10
				— 102	— 145	— 247
Total				259	254	513

From this table it will be seen that 247 (48.15%) of deaths were in persons over the age of 70 years and 309 (60.23%) occurred in persons over the normal retiring age of 65 years.

Last year I tried, for the first time, to see which causes of death were apparently responsible for the greatest economic disturbance. This was done by finding out the number of useful working years of life lost by each cause, assuming that normal working life ended at 65 years. Deaths under 10 years of age were omitted because the effect of neo-natal and infant deaths would obscure the picture. Males only are included in this table.

By applying this principle once again the seven diseases, or groups of diseases, causing the greatest disturbance become

Cause	No. of cases	Loss of working years	Average loss of working years per case
1. Cancer .....	30	317	10.56
2. Heart Diseases .....	32	279	8.72
3. Vascular diseases of the nervous system .....	11	141	12.8
4. Pneumonia and bronchitis .....	11	108	9.8
5. Tuberculosis, pulmonary .....	5	96	19.2
6. Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	2	69	34.5
7. Accidents, all types .....	2	51	26.5

There is, this year, relatively little difference between this list and that for the numerically placed seven most common causes of death but from this table it becomes obvious that tuberculosis and accidents cause economic disturbance out of all proportion to their number because of the higher loss of working years for each case.

Under "other infective and parasitic diseases" one case of Infectious Hepatitis and one case of Post-encephalitic Parkinsonism, both rare diseases occurred in young men thereby giving undue prominence to this category.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths were attributed directly to pregnancy or childbearing during 1954.

## INFANT MORTALITY

After correction for inward and outward transfers there were 20 deaths (10 males and 10 females) of infants under one year of age. This number is two less than in 1953, and the rate of 20.51 per 1,000 live births is 2.62 lower than in the previous year (23.13) which was until 1954 the lowest ever recorded in this town. Although there has been a slight fluctuation in the rate from year to year as is inevitable when small numbers are used for calculation, a steady decrease has taken place for many years, and the record of progress in maternal and infant care is shown to be remarkable when it is realised that the infant mortality rate only 7 years ago was over 30 per 1,000 live births, while 20 years ago it was over 40 per 1,000 and at the turn of the century was in excess of 100 per 1,000 or over 10 per cent.

The table below shows the decrease which has occurred in the past ten years.

1945	.....	32.5	1950	.....	28.4
1946	.....	31.1	1951	.....	23.4
1947	.....	39.9	1952	.....	24.93
1948	.....	31.09	1953	.....	23.13
1949	.....	25.51	1954	.....	20.51

Illegitimacy as a contributing factor to infant mortality appears from the figures for 1954 to be practically non-existent but if the picture is taken over a 10-year period the fact that babies born out of wedlock have less chance of survival becomes obvious. During the past ten years 22 illegitimate babies died during the first year of life out of 670 illegitimate live births; this is equivalent to 32.8 per 1,000 live births. During the same period 299 legitimately born infants died out of a total of 10,532—a rate of 28.4 per 1,000 live births. This difference may not appear at first sight to be very great but the infant mortality rate for illegitimate children was in fact 28.8 per cent. greater than that for legitimate children. For England and Wales as a whole the illegitimate infant mortality rate was 22.2 per cent. higher than that for legitimate infants. The numbers in Slough are so small to show whether this proportional difference is decreasing but the fact that equal and improved facilities are now available for all expectant mothers irrespective of marital status should, theoretically at least, lead to a reduction in the illegitimate infant mortality rate to an even greater degree than it does to those who are legitimate, although the obvious reluctance of some unmarried expectant mothers to seek adequate ante-natal care may never be overcome.

The table overleaf divides the deaths of infants under one year of age into causes and periods of less than one year. It shows deaths in varying periods up to 28 days (neo-natal period) and also in further varying periods to 1 year.

During 1954 the majority of infant deaths occurred either in the first year or during the second and third months of life. The thorough investigation into the causes of deaths of infants mentioned in my last report was continued. So far as can be judged none was caused by lack of medical care and/or delay in instituting care and attention. Two cases were, how-

ever, unusual enough to warrant the attention of the Coroner, one child dying from suffocation and one from undernourishment; in both cases a verdict of misadventure was recorded. In one other case there is just a possibility that a higher standard of hygiene in the home might have prevented the tragedy.

### NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Of the 20 infants who died in the first year of life 11 (or 55%) died in the Neo-natal period. This is equivalent to a Neo-natal mortality rate of 10.26 per 1,000 live births. In 1953 the rate was 13.67 and 59% of deaths in the first year of life occurred before babies had reached the age of 28 days. If this Neo-natal period is further sub-divided it is seen that out of the 11 deaths occurring during the first month 8 occurred during the first week of life and no less than 5, a quarter of the year's total of infant deaths, happened during the first day of life.

It will be noticed that 21 children are recorded as having died under the age of one year, whereas the statistical analysis is based on 20. This is because the Registrar-General's figures are based only on the returns during the period under review as he finds it impossible to carry forward returns into the following year, whereas the data obtained locally refers to deaths which actually occurred during the calendar year, irrespective of the date when information was received.

Causes of Death of all Infants under one year of age.

Cause of Death	Under 1 day	1—2 days	3—5 days	6—7 days	Total under 1 week	1—2 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	4—6 months	7—9 months	10—12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity .....	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Congenital abnormalities .....	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	4
Birth Injury .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Haemorrhagic Disease of Newborn .....	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Atelectasis .....	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Broncho-Pneumonia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3
Pyloric Stenosis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Gastro-enteritis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Suffocation .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Undernourishment .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total .....	5	1	2	—	8	2	1	11	7	1	2	—	21

## INQUESTS.

Twenty-two inquests were held upon residents of the Borough during 1954: six less than in 1953 and fourteen fewer than in 1952. The causes of death as recorded by the Registrars of Births and Deaths are set out in the following table:—

Causes of Death :					Males	Females	Total
Natural Causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	-	4
Accidents :—							
Falls	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	3
Electrocution	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	-	1
Road accidents	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2	5
Suffocation	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	-	1
Suicide :—							
Coal gas poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2	5
Open Verdict :—							
Drowning	.....	.....	.....	.....	-	2	2
Homicide	.....	.....	.....	.....	-	1	1
					—	—	—
					14	8	22
					—	—	—

## POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Borough at the end of June, 1954, was 67,090, a net gain of 140 over the estimated population a year earlier.

The natural increase (births less deaths) was 465 and from this it will be seen that there was a net emigration from the town during the year of 325.

Once again there was little change in the population which has remained remarkably static for the past seven years.

1945	.....	60,220	1950	.....	66,340
1946	.....	63,040	1951	.....	66,439 (Census)
1947	.....	64,240	1952	.....	66,730
1948	.....	66,060	1953	.....	66,950
1949	.....	66,610	1954	.....	67,090

Towards the end of the year, however, new housing began to effect changes which will materially alter the position in the near future. The first houses on the Borough Council's own housing estate at Wexham Farm and the London County Council's housing estate at Langley were completed and the first families entered into occupation at Wexham Farm on 17th July, 1954, and at Langley on 4th October, 1954. By the end of the year 202 families had been rehoused at the former and 101 families at the latter.

As the Wexham Farm estate is in the Eton Rural District and the L.C.C. Langley estate in the Borough, the apparent changes in population of the town will be slight but the town itself is the natural centre for work, shopping and leisure for both the areas mentioned above. As the Wexham Farm estate houses, to a very great extent, the citizens of the town who were living in overcrowded and unsatisfactory homes, the number of additional persons making demands upon the facilities of Slough will be approximately equal to the population of the London County Council's Langley Estate.

Due to relaxation on building restrictions a considerable amount of private building was also commenced on the few remaining sites in the town and this, too, will probably cause a slight increase in the population.

## II. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

### Cleansing and Disinfestation

Disinfestation of bedding and personal effects continued at the steam disinfestor at the Chalvey Pumping Station. The number of operations continued to be very small.

### Disposal of Refuse.

No changes in the system of refuse disposal occurred during 1954 but owing to shortage of labour at the refuse destructor at Chalvey towards the end of the year, controlled tipping on low-lying land near the Datchet Road had to be increased.

### Kitchen Waste.

The Borough Council still continue to employ contractors to operate scheme for collecting kitchen waste. There have always been difficulties in operating this scheme as contractors find it almost impossible to obtain sufficient labour; 1954 appeared to be no worse or no better than previous years in this respect.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Once again I have to report that the building and installation of the new plant continued at the Sewage Works. Gradually the situation improves as new portions of this scheme are put into operation and it was possible during 1954 to lift building restrictions except in the Trading Estate and Arnham Road areas when part of the Southern Interceptor Sewer and the Longmead Pumping Station were brought into use.

### Water

No adverse reports were made upon water samples taken during the year from any of the three undertakings which supply the Borough.

### Borough Corporation Water Supply

The water supplied by the Corporation continued to be satisfactory both in quantity and in quality. 347 additional houses were supplied during the year.

Weekly bacteriological analyses were continued in the Town Hall laboratory and quarterly samples were referred to an independent analyst for examination. Of the 56 samples so analysed all showed freedom from contamination and confirmed that the water supply was pure and wholesome.

The Borough Council is also fortunate in that its source of supply contains almost the ideal quantity of fluorine for the maximum preservation of teeth without any significant mottling. Research which has been continued by the Dental Branch of the Medical Research Council has shown a beneficial effect upon the teeth of children living within the area of the Council's supply.

### Arnham, Dorney and Hitcham Waterworks Co. Ltd.

117 houses were added to the area supplied by the water undertaking. 45 samples of water were submitted to the Counties Public Health laboratories for chemical and bacteriological analyses and no traces of contamination were discovered.

## Slough Estates, Ltd., Water Supply

This company supplies water mainly to the factories and canteens on the Slough Trading Estate but about 70 dwelling houses come within the area supplied. As the supply comes from deep boreholes, the water from this undertaking is fairly soft, in contrast with the water supplied by the two other undertakings. Analyses taken during the year showed the same freedom from contamination which was found in the water from the other suppliers.

A typical chemical analysis, taken from No. 6 Borehole at the well-head on 1st September, 1954, is given below :—

(Chemical values are given in parts per million)

Appearance	.....	Bright with very few mineral particles.
Reaction	.....	pH 8.0
Free Carbon Dioxide	.....	3
Electric Conductivity at 20°C	.....	560
Total solids	.....	375
Chlorine as chlorides	.....	42
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	.....	215
Hardness: Total	.....	80
Temporary	.....	80
Permanent	.....	nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	.....	nil
Nitrogen as nitrites	.....	nil
Free Ammonia	.....	0.19
Albuminoid Ammonia	.....	0.01
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	.....	0.05
Metals: Iron	.....	0.24
Other metals	.....	Absent

### Swimming Bath Water.

Samples of water were taken from the Community Centre indoor swimming bath which is in use all the year round and from the outdoor baths at Baylis Court and the St. Bernard's Convent School, which are used during the summer months only.

All samples were satisfactory.

### Pet Animals Act, 1951.

All pet shops in the Borough were inspected regularly by the Veterinary Surgeon appointed by the Borough Council for that purpose. No adverse reports were received.

### National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47.

No action was necessary under this Section during 1954.

## STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

I reported last year, for the first time, upon the number of Staff Medical examinations performed.

A full medical examination is carried out on every new officer entering permanent employment with the Slough Borough Council and the local services of the Bucks County Council. In addition, each entrant to Teachers' Training College and every teacher teaching in a County School for the first time must also be examined. Servants of the Slough Borough Council are also given an opportunity at certain specified times of entering the Council's Superannuation Scheme and need a medical examination for that purpose.

The medical examination takes approximately half an hour and arrangements are also made for a chest X-ray for those who will come into close contact with children.

During 1954, no less than 141 medical examinations were carried out. This is three more than in 1953.

Slough Borough Council .....	24
Bucks County Council .....	53
Teachers' Training College .....	24
Teaching for the first time .....	12
Servants entering Superannuation Scheme .....	28
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>141</b>

### LABORATORY

During the year, 1,356 examinations were undertaken in the Laboratory, an increase of 37 upon the previous year.

A detailed analysis of the examinations is shown below :—

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
bs for Diphtheria Bacilli .....	—	43
bs for Gonococci .....	—	3
bs for Haemolytic Streptococci .....	—	121
bs for Vincent's Angina .....	—	2
sa for Tubercle Bacilli .....	—	15
re for routine examination .....	128	
es for organisms of Coli/Typhoid Group	1	47
d Counts .....	43	

	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Un-satisfactory</i>
<b>samples :—</b>		
(a) Phosphatase test .....	145	—
(b) Methylene blue test .....	174	—
(c) Coliform test .....	50	—
(d) Turbidity test .....	11	—
(e) Chemical tests for fats, solids and water .....	268	—
<b>r Samples :—</b>		
(a) Drinking water .....	26	4
(b) Swimming bath water .....	38	—
<b>ream :—</b>		
(a) Chemical Tests .....	108	5
(b) Bacteriological Tests		
Grade I .....	121	
Grade II .....	—	
Grade III.....	1	
Grade IV.....	3	

The continued constant supervision of ice-cream factories by the Factory Inspectors has resulted in an astonishing improvement since 1950. In 1954, no less than 96.8% of samples came within the highest grade, four samples out of 125 being unsatisfactory. When it is realised that a slight error in a factory can, because of the careful follow-up procedure, cause several samples to fall below Grade I and even into the unsatisfactory Grades III and IV, the high standard of hygiene which has been maintained in the factories is noteworthy.

It is always more difficult to maintain a high bacteriological standard during the summer months when air temperatures are high and the poor summer may have had some influence upon the exceptional figures produced this year. A really fine summer would test the factories to the utmost and a slight deterioration in the figures might be expected under these conditions.

	Number of samples					Percentage of samples				
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Grade I .....	55	153	103	148	121	43.7	76.9	83.7	94.9	96.8
Grade II .....	50	21	6	1	Nil	39.7	10.6	4.9	0.6	Nil
Grade III .....	14	15	7	4	1	11.1	7.5	5.7	2.6	0.
Grade IV .....	7	15	7	4	1	11.1	7.5	5.7	2.6	0.
Grade IV .....	7	10	7	3	3	5.5	5.0	5.7	1.9	2.

### BOROUGH MORTUARY

Eighty-nine post-mortem examinations were carried out during 1954. There were 85 in 1950, 62 in 1951, 91 in 1952, and 90 in 1953.

### HOME HELPS SERVICE

The Home Helps Service which is provided by the Bucks County Council and run by a Home Helps Organiser under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health as Area Medical Officer for South Bucks, continued its work during 1954. The number of calls upon its resources was very slightly less than in the previous year.

Out of all the cases who were assisted no less than 145 were 70 years of age or over.

Details of the service are as follows :—

No. of Home Helps as at	31.12.53	31.12.54
(a) Full-time .....	Nil	Nil
(b) Part-time .....	31	33
No. of cases who received help during :	1953	1954
(a) Acute sick .....	64	53
(b) Chronic sick .....	251	230
(c) Tuberculous .....	11	6
(d) Maternity .....	39	52
	<u>365</u>	<u>341</u>

### III. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Showing cases notified during 1954. Numbers admitted to Hospital and Deaths. Also notifications for years 1943-1953.

	Cases Notified 1954	Cases admitted to Hospital 1954	Deaths 1954	Population in thousands											
				1953	1952	1951	Total cases notified during								1943
Smallpox .....	-	4	-	66	66	66	66	66	66	64	63	60	61	62	
Scarlet Fever .....	70	-	-	215	117	33	54	33	-	66	44	77	113	-	
Diphtheria .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	7	16	8	151	120	
Enteric Fever .....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	30	23	
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	25	21	-	24	26	6	5	9	8	12	17	6	-	-	
Pneumonia .....	53	10	17	64	33	44	32	14	20	27	22	28	10	9	
Erysipelas .....	15	2	-	17	14	12	14	15	14	20	24	9	7	34	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	-	-	-	1	-	2	14	-	1	-	20	24	2	22	
Measles .....	29	-	-	526	778	1,681	76	416	748	168	859	826	29	2	
Whooping Cough .....	78	1	-	143	101	226	98	118	328	171	280	92	146	995	
Meningococcal Infection .....	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	4	7	1	6	146	164	
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic .....	1	-	-	5	11	7	7	1	9	5	1	2	65	5	
Non-Paralytic .....	1	1	-	2	9	7	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Acute Encephalitis : Infective .....	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Post-Infectious .....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dysentery .....	3	2	-	6	3	2	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	
Food Poisoning .....	-	-	-	6	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malaria (contracted abroad) .....	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

# Showing Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic .....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic .....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Erysipelas .....	2	2	1	1	1	-	2	-	1	2	2	1
Measles .....	1	-	-	-	3	3	16	-	2	-	2	2
Meningococcal Infection .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia .....	8	1	10	5	6	10	-	-	1	6	2	4
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	3	1	2	2	1	2	4	3	2	3	2	-
Scarlet Fever .....	8	10	19	9	9	5	2	-	2	1	3	2
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary .....	2	9	5	4	5	4	6	6	9	7	6	6
Non-Pulmonary .....	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	1	-	3	-
	3	10	13	30	13	3	1	-	1	-	1	3

# Showing Incidence in Wards of Borough

	Burnham North	Burnham South	Central North	Central South	Chalvey	Farnham North	Farnham South	Langley	Stoke North	Stoke South	Upton
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Non-Paralytic .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Dysentery .....	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas .....	1	1	2	1	3	-	-	4	1	1	1
Measles .....	1	2	3	2	1	-	1	16	-	2	1
Meningococcal infection .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia .....	4	5	3	2	9	4	1	11	4	5	5
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Scarlet Fever .....	17	10	7	3	7	2	2	7	1	6	8
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary .....	9	8	1	1	5	9	9	8	5	9	5
Non-Pulmonary .....	1	-	1	-	1	2	2	1	1	-	-
Whooping Cough .....	6	30	2	1	12	5	3	4	9	-	5

## DIPHTHERIA.

For the sixth year in succession no case of diphtheria was reported.

As has been emphasised on previous occasions, this happy state of affairs depends upon a high level of immunity in the population as a whole and in children in particular.

Now that combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria vaccine is available and is given to those parents who ask for it the vast majority of those immunised are protected against Whooping Cough as well as against Diphtheria.

During 1954, 867 children were given initial protection against Diphtheria compared with 826 in 1953 and out of these no less than 686 received the combined Diphtheria/Pertussis vaccine. 1,425 children also received renewal, or "booster" doses against Diphtheria.

There were, therefore, 41 more children given primary inoculations and 213 more "renewals" as compared with 1953.

## WHOOPIING COUGH

The number of cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year was 78. This disease became notifiable from October 23rd, 1939, and only in 1940 and 1942 has the number of notifications been smaller than it was in 1954.

Although the number of cases notified over the years since 1940 seems to have varied only a little, there does seem to have been a considerable change in the disease itself. For the eight years between 1940 and 1947 no less than 126 cases were admitted to hospital and 22 children died from Whooping Cough. From 1948 onwards, however, only 22 children were admitted to hospital suffering from that disease and the only death during the period occurred in 1951.

Although Whooping Cough is still, quite rightly, looked upon as one of the serious infectious diseases and is, of course, particularly dangerous in young infants it is not now generally expected to be serious enough to cause death although chronic chest ailments may occur after apparent recovery. On looking back through the Annual Reports of past years came across the following in the Annual Report for 1941:—"Whooping Cough was somewhat prevalent, 244 cases being notified, with 5 deaths; 24 were admitted to hospital." Such a report would cause more commotion today.

The demand for protection against Whooping Cough continued to rise and the number immunised against the disease was 691 as compared with 669 in 1953, 585 in 1952 and 508 in 1951.

## SCARLET FEVER

Only 70 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported during the year compared with 215 in 1953.

The disease continued to be mild and although August was the only month free from notifications and the main incidence occurred during the earlier months of the year, no signs of a real outbreak were in evidence. Only 4 of the cases were admitted to hospital and there were no deaths.

## ERYSIPELAS.

As the germ which causes Scarlet Fever also causes Erysipelas it would be expected that the number of cases of the latter condition would fluctuate in the same way as the former. This has not happened during the last two years and the fifteen cases notified during 1954 were only slightly fewer than those which occurred in 1953.

The cases were notified at a continuing low level over all the months except June and August. Two cases were admitted to hospital but there were no deaths.

## PNEUMONIA

Fifty-three cases of acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia were notified during 1954 and of these ten were admitted to hospital. No one month showed a very high incidence but, as is usually expected most cases occurred during the winter and spring months, with the exception, surprisingly enough, of February, during which only one case was brought to my notice.

## ENTERIC FEVER

Although no case of enteric fever was notified during the year, and in fact only one case has been notified for many years—in 1949—one death is recorded as having occurred from this disease.

Enquiry showed that the patient suffered from enteric fever some 46 years ago and as he had never been well since the private doctor entered Enteric Fever as the cause of death. Since then there had been no evidence whatsoever of any recent disease.

## MEASLES.

At the beginning of 1953 the biennial outbreak of measles was coming to an end and it was not surprising, therefore, that very few cases occurred during 1954. The 29 cases which did occur equals the low record of 1944.

Although the biennial nature of measles epidemics is stressed, if records for the past twelve years are examined it will be seen that the incidence appears to be high each year with the exceptions of 1944, 1950 and 1954. From this it could be concluded that outbreaks occur annually rather than at two year intervals. It usually happens, however, that as an epidemic spreads over several months and more often occurs during the winter months, that a high notification rate extends over two successive calendar years. Thus, while the figures for 1952 and 1953 were high because of an outbreak which started towards the end of 1952, the notifications for 1954 were low because the outbreak which was expected to begin late in 1954 was somewhat delayed and did not start until 1955 was well under way.

None of the cases notified during 1954 was admitted to hospital and there were no deaths.

## PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Twenty-five cases of Puerperal Pyrexia came to my notice in 1954 compared with 24 in 1953 and 26 in 1952. Comparison with years previous to 1952 is impossible as regulations making a milder condition notifiable came into operation only in August, 1951.

In this condition a large proportion of cases is recorded as being admitted to hospital. This is quite understandable when it is realised that the majority of women are now delivered of their babies in hospital and that puerperal pyrexia is, by definition, a rise of temperature in the mother to 100°F or more during the first fourteen days after childbirth or miscarriage.

No death was attributed to this cause.

## ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

### (Infantile Paralysis)

Only two cases of poliomyelitis were notified in the town during 1954, compared with seven in 1953, 20 in 1952, 14 in 1951 and 15 in 1950. One case, a non-paralytic one, occurred in April in a small boy of 8 years of age and the other, a paralytic one, occurred in June in a small boy of 2½ years.

To be able to record such a low incidence of this disease is obviously a task which gives great pleasure and if such a record gave cause for optimism for the future the pleasure would be doubled. Unfortunately, in the light of present knowledge such a low incidence of the disease must merely be regarded as good fortune and not an indication that the disease has been conquered.

Ages	Paralytic		Non-Paralytic		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0—	1	-	-	-	1	-
5—	-	-	1	-	1	-
15—	-	-	-	-	-	-
25—	-	-	-	-	-	-
35—	-	-	-	-	-	-
45—50	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	-	1	-	2	-

(Polio paralytic—M. aged 2½ notified June, 1954 ; Polio Non-Paralytic M. aged 8 notified April, 1954.)

## VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The number of primary vaccinations against Smallpox fell quite considerably compared with the previous year ; 375 against 465 in 1953. 280 of these were in children under one year of age.

The number of re-vaccinations also fell from 101 in 1953 to 55 in 1954 of these 49 were in persons over the age of 15 years and were probably associated with travel abroad as many countries insist upon immigrants carrying current certificates of vaccination.

## TUBERCULOSIS

### (a) New Cases.

The number of new notifications of tuberculosis in 1954 was disappointingly high, sixty-nine new cases of the pulmonary form of the disease and nine new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis being discovered during the year. In 1953 there were 55 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary cases.

If one looks back over the records of the past five years, however, there is still good reason to view the situation with some optimism as fewer pulmonary cases were discovered in 1954 than in any other year since 1947 with the exception of 1953. So far as non-pulmonary cases are concerned only 1945, 1947 and 1953 have produced fewer cases during the past 10 years.

As the records of 10 years or more ago seem to have been more favourable than those of today, it would appear at first glance that the control of tuberculosis is as far away as ever it was. There have, however, been changes which, there is a very good reason to believe, make this to be a false assumption.

Since the war the attitude towards this disease has undergone a radical change. In pre-war days the presence of tuberculosis in a family was hidden and only admitted with furtive whispers to a chosen few. Today that attitude has passed and probably for a variety of reasons, all of which are so inextricably interwoven that to give comparative credit to any one cause is impossible. The invention and discovery of new antibiotics and other drugs has given sufferers from the disease the hope that they may be cured, attempts to remove the economic disturbance caused by this illness by higher allowances and more generous treatment by many employers has enabled patients to take advantage of treatment which still may often be lengthy, and the acceptance of mass radiography by factory workers and the general public has led to earlier detection of the disease. In addition a new factor, B.C.G. vaccination, now only beginning in this country, to be used on a widespread basis, will also help to combat the disease.

Owing to these changes a larger number of new cases come to the notice of the Public Health Department and for a time it appears as if the problem is not only not improving but even becoming worse. As, however, the new cases tend to be discovered earlier and are able, in a large majority of cases, to be cured or at the very least to be made non-infectious, the chances of the disease spreading to others is diminished. It is therefore hoped that in the course of a comparatively few years the disease will be controlled to such an extent that it can, after a further period, be eliminated completely.

This is the picture confidently predicted by many workers in the field of tuberculosis and although it may seem to be contradicted by the picture seen locally, partly owing to factors which will be more fully reported next year, this point of view seems not unreasonable when the country as a whole is considered.

Year	1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954	
Population .....	63,040		64,240		66,060		66,610		66,340		66,439		66,730		66,950		67,090	
	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.
Cases notified .....	46	25	58	5	76	10	71	11	79	16	88	13	71	9	55	4	69	9
Notification per 1,000 of population .....	0.73	0.39	0.90	0.08	1.15	0.25	1.07	0.17	1.19	0.24	1.32	0.19	1.06	0.13	0.82	0.06	1.03	0.13

Age in years	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0—	-	-	-	-
1—	1	-	-	-
5—	2	1	1	2
15—	5	13	1	1
25—	11	4	-	-
35—	9	3	-	-
45—	9	2	-	2
55—	4	-	-	1
65 and over	5	-	-	-
Total	46	23	2	7

**(b) Notification Register.**

The number of cases remaining on the Notification Register on 31st December, 1954, was as follows :—

<i>Pulmonary</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
403	295	698	47	55	102

This table gives the total number on the register at the end of 1954. It includes not only those who were notified for the first time as suffering from tuberculosis while living in the Borough but also those who, already suffering from the disease, have come from elsewhere to live in the town.

The 'transfers-in' are offset to some extent by the removal of those who have gone to live elsewhere and will be on the registers of Medical Officers of Health in the areas to which they have gone, but for the next few years at least the number of 'transfers-in' will greatly exceed the 'transfers-out' as a considerable number of known cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are being transferred from London on to the new L.C.C. estates, first at Langley and then at Farnham Royal.

**(c) Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.**

Nine cases of tuberculosis affecting parts of the body other than the lungs were notified during 1954 and the table below gives further details of those cases.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Abdomen	1	-
Ankle	-	1
Cervical glands	1	1
Chest wall	-	1
Elbow	-	1
Fallopian tubes	-	1
Meninges	-	1
Rectum	-	1
Total	2	7

(d) **B.C.G. Vaccination.**

The trials which are being carried out by the Medical Research Council in Slough and other selected places throughout the country to discover the exact part which B.C.G. vaccination has to play in the prevention of tuberculosis continued during 1954.

In addition to this, the Ministry of Health approved a scheme proposed by the Bucks County Council for the B.C.G. vaccination of school-children and this will be offered to children of approximately 14 years of age after suitable tests have been carried out.

(e) **Deaths from Tuberculosis.**

The number of deaths from tuberculosis did show a slight increase on the previous year, 9 in 1954 as against 6 in 1953.

The number for 1954 was, however, much closer to the figure for 1953 and much below those ever previously recorded except in 1953.

Year	Population	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary Death rate per 1,000 population
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1940	60,670	11	15	2	3	0.43
1941	65,350	14	18	4	6	0.49
1942	64,420	11	13	3	2	0.37
1943	62,960	19	13	1	-	0.51
1944	61,250	18	14	4	1	9.52
1945	60,220	14	12	5	1	0.43
1946	63,040	16	17	2	1	0.52
1947	64,240	17	10	2	4	0.42
1948	66,060	17	12	2	2	0.44
1949	66,610	13	9	-	-	0.33
1950	66,340	10	3	1	2	0.19
1951	66,439	10	6	1	-	0.24
1952	66,730	11	3	1	1	0.21
1953	66,950	5	1	-	-	0.09
1954	67,090	5	2	-	2	0.13

#### IV. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There are five Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the Borough ; at the Health Centre in Burlington Road, at the Slough Community Centre in Farnham Road, at the Central Hall, Bower Way, Cippenham, at the Wexham Road Community Centre and at the Women's Institute Hall, Elmhurst Road, Langley. Each of these centres is held weekly with the exception of the one at Burlington Road which is held twice weekly.

In addition to the ordinary Child Welfare Centres "Toddlers Clinics," at which mothers have an opportunity to discuss their older children with a doctor, have been held regularly, although at more infrequent intervals at four of the centres. Specific appointments are made and the mothers are thus encouraged to bring their older children who do not, for a variety of reasons, usually attend infant welfare centres with any great regularity.

#### ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

Location	Ante-Natal Clinic	Post-Natal Clinic
Upton	Mondays 10.30 a.m. (first bookings) Mondays, 2.0 p.m. Thursdays, 2.0 p.m.	Fridays, 2.30 p.m.
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital Out-Patient Dept. (Hut behind Community Centre, Farnham Road.)	Mondays, 10 a.m. (first bookings)	Thursdays 9.0 a.m.

In addition to these clinics there is a Midwives' Ante-Natal Clinic held at the Health Centre, Burlington Road, for those whose confinements are to take place at home. In these cases, post-natal care is undertaken by the family doctor.

#### ANTE-NATAL BLOOD TESTS.

Routine examinations of the blood of expectant mothers has continued with the kind assistance of the Pathologist at the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow. The incompatibility which sometimes arises owing to differences in the Rhesus factor of the father's and mother's blood cannot be altered, but steps can be taken to minimise this effect and the success of these measures has been shown by the great reduction in infant deaths from this cause.

#### SCHOOL CLINICS

These clinics are part of the School Health Service and are available to all children of school age attending County schools and also to those attending Nursery Schools. All clinics are held at the Burlington Road Health Centre. A Minor Ailment Clinic is held every morning by Health Visitors and a doctor is in attendance on Thursday mornings. Visits to the Dentists or Eye Specialists are arranged by appointment.

A Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is held on Thursday mornings at 9.30 a.m.

The work of the Child Guidance Clinic which was commenced in 1952 has continued during the year. This clinic has shown the need for this type of work and as its existence has become more widely known, the pressure of work has increased.

### **MARRIED WOMEN'S ADVISORY CLINIC.**

Community Centre, Farnham Road	.....	.....	Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.
(Entrance—Buckingham Avenue)			
Health Centre, Burlington Road	.....	.....	Fridays, 2.30—4 p.m. and 5.30—7.0 p.m.

### **DAY NURSERY.**

Children from 0 to 3 years are cared for daily at the Manor Park Day Nursery run by the Health Department of the Bucks County Council. The Nursery is situated at—

Penn Road, Manor Park, Slough.

Applications for admission should be made to the Area Medical Officer, "Glenhartie," 15, Bath Road, Slough.

### **RESIDENTIAL NURSERY.**

The Children's Committee of the Bucks County Council is responsible for residential children's homes and although there are other homes situated throughout the county, the only home in Slough is at "Brookside," Sal Hill. Applications for admission to a children's home should be made to the Children's Officer, 22, Silver Street, Aylesbury. Accommodation is restricted and although every effort is made to admit urgent cases there can be no guarantee that a child can be admitted to any particular nursery.

## **V. HOSPITAL SERVICE.**

The Borough of Slough is served by the following hospitals and maternity homes, the majority of which are situated outside the Borough.

#### **General Hospitals.**

Upton Hospital, Albert Street, Slough.  
King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.  
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow.  
Old Windsor Hospital, Old Windsor.  
Iver, Denham and Langley Cottage Hospital, Iver.

#### **Infectious Diseases Hospitals.**

Maidenhead Isolation Hospital.  
St. John's Hospital, Uxbridge.

#### **Venereal Diseases.**

The nearest treatment centres are :—  
King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.  
Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.  
Hillingdon Hospital, Hillingdon.

## **Tuberculosis.**

(i) *Chest Clinic.* The Chest Clinic is at the Kipling Memorial Building, Alma Road, Windsor, with a subsidiary clinic at Upton Hospital, Slough. All arrangements are made by the Chest Physician, who is available at the Windsor Clinic (Tel. No. Windsor 2033).

(ii) *Sanatorium.* All admissions are arranged by the Chest Physician, Chest Clinic, Kipling Memorial Building, Alma Road, Windsor.

## **Maternity Accommodation.**

Upton Hospital, Albert Street, Slough.

Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow.

Colinswood Maternity Home, Farnham Common.

Old Windsor Hospital, Old Windsor.

Princess Christian Maternity Home, Windsor.

If the patient's own doctor thinks that admission should be made on medical grounds, the patient is referred to the nearest ante-natal clinic, but if admission is sought on domiciliary or social grounds application is made through the Area Medical Officer, who makes his recommendations to the Hospital Management Committee following a report on home circumstances by a Health Visitor.

## **Part III Accommodation.**

Aged Persons	—	Sick	.....	Upton Hospital.
		Non-sick	.....	Upton Towers.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## of

### THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

#### For the Year 1954.

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Section A — General Administration.  
 Section B — Housing.  
 Section C — Supervision.  
 Section D — Factories, Workplaces and Shops  
 Section E — General Sanitation.  
 Section F — Pest Infestation Control.  
 Section G — Miscellaneous.

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### SECTION A. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

TABLE No. 1.

**Summary :**

Total inspections .....	14,063
Complaints received and investigated .....	1,040
Preliminary Notices Served .....	525
Secondary Notices Served .....	159
Statutory Notices Served .....	21
Letters Received .....	2,949
Letters Despatched .....	1,656
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders .....	1,205

TABLE No. 2.

**Analysis of Inspection Work Performed by the District Sanitary**

**Inspectors :**

Housing .....	3,122
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods .....	984
Premises at which Food is Prepared, Stored and Sold .....	2,334
Dairies .....	147
Factories and Workplaces .....	658
Shops .....	707
General Sanitation .....	4,807
Pest Infestation Control (including visits by the Pest Control Officer) .....	3,751
Miscellaneous Matters .....	1,238

TABLE No. 3.

**Premises at which Improvements were effected :**

Dwelling-houses (rendered habitable) .....	18
Premises used for Preparation and Sale of Food .....	16
Factories and Workplaces .....	4
Shops .....	10
Drainage (reconstruction, repair, etc.) .....	17
Portable dustbins provided .....	1
Miscellaneous Premises .....	6

## New Legislation.

The principal new statutory provisions introduced during the year, with which your Sanitary Inspectors are particularly concerned, are as follows :—

- (a) The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which came into operation in August, 1954, amends the earlier Acts of 1936 and 1949, particularly in relation to slum clearance, grants for the improvement and conversion of houses, and also provides for Rent increase. The Act has also laid down a new statutory standard of fitness of houses used for human habitation.
- (b) The Housing Repairs (Increase of Rent) Regulations, 1954, and other kindred Regulations, control rent increases and contain provisions as to certificates of disrepair.
- (c) The Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, became operative in July last and places upon local authorities the duty of ensuring that adequate slaughtering facilities are available in their district. It amends the law relating to public and private slaughterhouses.
- (d) The Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, operated from October, 1954. It provides for the amendment of enactments relating to the humane slaughtering of animals for food and it also implements certain recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry into the Slaughtering of Horses.
- (e) The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2.) Regulations, 1954, are designed to secure humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughtering of animals at slaughterhouses and knackers' yards, and they deal with the construction, lay-out and equipment of slaughterhalls and lairages and the conditions to be observed therein.
- (f) The Food & Drugs Amendment Act, 1954, amends the provisions of the Acts of 1938 and 1950 and contains provisions which local authorities will welcome as certain difficulties in Food & Drugs administration arising from case law will now be eliminated. Only section 28 relating to the control of slaughterhouses was in operation at the end of the year.
- (g) The following Orders also came into operation during the year :—
  - Mineral Oil in Food (Amendment) Order, 1954.
  - Food Standards (Soft Drinks) (Amendment) Order, 1954.
  - Food Standards (Margarine) Order, 1954.
- (h) In addition to the above legislation the Interim and Final Reports of the Committee on Air Pollution appointed jointly by the Minister of Housing and Local Government and the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Minister of Fuel and Power "to examine the nature causes and effects of air pollution and the efficacy of present preventive measures, to consider what further preventive measures are practicable and to make recommendations" were presented to Parliament during 1954.

## SECTION B.

### HOUSING.

#### Programme of Housing Slum Clearance.

For some years past I have drawn attention to those dwelling-houses which are still used for human habitation but which have outlived their usefulness and become obsolescent and with passing years increasingly dilapidated. The only satisfactory method of dealing with these properties is by action under the Housing Acts to secure their removal by statutory demolition or clearance procedure.

The introduction of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act of 1954, and the intention of the Government to deal with the problem of obsolescent houses by the preparation and energetic pursuit by local authorities of a comprehensive programme is an encouraging feature and much time has already been devoted by your officers to a detailed survey of those houses which come within this category. This concentrated action has entailed a temporary reduction of activity in certain other aspects of administration so as to ensure that a draft programme is prepared in good time for consideration by the Borough Council and subsequent submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. This important work was well in hand at the close of the year.

This detailed survey will not only define specific groups of houses to be dealt with but it will also provide statistics to enable the Borough Council to determine the number and particular types of dwellings which it will be necessary to provide for the rehousing of displaced families.

#### Closing Orders.

- (a) *Proceedings under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. Section 10.*

During the year Closing Orders were made in respect of the following eight houses, it being considered inexpedient to make Demolition Orders, having regard to the effect of the demolition of the houses upon adjoining dwelling-houses :—

70,	High Street,	Langley.
120,	„ „ „	
122,	„ „ „	
126,	„ „ „	
130,	„ „ „	
132,	„ „ „	
4,	Somerset Place,	Slough.
61,	Church Street,	Chalvey.

- (b) *Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936. Section 12.*

A Closing Order was made prohibiting the use of certain rooms of the undermentioned house for occupation for human habitation :—

10, Brook Path, Cippenham.

## Housing Improvement Grants—Housing Act, 1949 (as amended).

Several enquiries as to improvement grants were received, principally from owner/occupiers of dwelling-houses and grants for the improvement of housing accommodation were approved in respect of seven applications, the works amounting in the aggregate to £2,147 and the improvement grants to £1,072. Eighty-one visits were recorded in respect of enquiries and works in progress and three schemes of improvement were completed during the year.

Arrangements are being made whereby the premises in respect of which grants are made will be periodically inspected to ascertain that the conditions under which grants have been made are complied with.

## Reconditioning of Housing Accommodation.

The duty of ensuring that dwelling-houses are maintained to a satisfactory standard of fitness for human habitation and in a healthy environment is one of the more important duties of the Sanitary Inspectors. This is evident from the fact that during 1954 the district sanitary inspectors surveyed and examined some 881 dwelling-houses within the Borough for that purpose, and followed up the initial visits by 1,385 re-inspections for the purpose of supervising works in progress and securing compliance with notices served.

Some 184 houses were rendered habitable during the year.

As a result of the activities, in relation to Housing, of the district sanitary inspectors, 400 preliminary written and verbal notices and 21 statutory notices in pursuance of the Housing and Public Health Acts, were served.

Two hundred and forty-seven complaints concerning defective housing accommodation were made by members of the public.

Recent experience has shown that there is now little difficulty in the Building Trade with the availability of labour for carrying out works of repair to dwelling-houses for the purpose of complying with Notices of the Department. Low rents appear to act as a deterrent to the voluntary maintenance of dwellings against dilapidation.

## Repair of Properties in Default of Owners.

There were four cases in which owners of property had failed to comply with the requirements of statutory notices and consequently, default action was necessary. Works amounting to £199. 8s. 6d., which is recoverable, were carried out on behalf of the Corporation by various building contractors as follows :—

<i>Property</i>	<i>Works Executed</i>	<i>Cost</i>		
		£	s.	d.
8, Stoke Road.	Housing Act, 1936. Section 9.	41	14	6
3, Montague Road.	„ „ „ „ „	28	6	0
12, Alexandra Road.	„ „ „ „ „	118	10	0
39, Salisbury Road,	„ „ „ „ „	10	18	0

## Overcrowding.

The statutory overcrowding and the occupation under congested conditions of dwelling-houses are matters which often confront the sanitary inspector. It is however, pleasing to note that in this Borough he does not come across cases of gross overcrowding to the extent that was familiar a few years ago, for the erection of new houses, both council and privately owned, has done much to alleviate the overcrowding problem. In my last Report I pointed out that there is every reason to believe that the position is improving and this is particularly evident in the decline of complaints of overcrowded houses which have been received from members of the public more recently.

No applications for licences under Section 61 of the Housing Act, 1936, to permit temporary overcrowding, were received.

## Council Housing Estates.

### (a) *Housing Allocation*

In accordance with the Council's Housing Points Scheme, 156 applications for Council houses were investigated by my staff for the purpose of recommending to the Tenancy and Arrears Committee, the appropriate award of points in respect of insanitary or sub-standard conditions of the housing accommodation of the applicants. In this work, I am particularly appreciative of the co-operation of the Chief Sanitary Inspectors of other local authorities in obtaining the requisite information in respect of applicants residing in their respective areas.

### (b) *Council Housing Estates*

The following inspections of houses situated at Council housing estates were carried out :—

(i)	Exchanges and tenancy transfers .....	7
(ii)	Overcrowding of houses .....	2
(iii)	Keeping of poultry .....	1
(iv)	Infestation by vermin .....	34
(v)	Rodent infestation (officers) .....	357
	(rodent operators) .....	540
(vi)	Infestation by wasps, flies, ants, etc. (officers) .....	53
	(operators) .....	28
(vii)	Follow-up and miscellaneous visits .....	299

## Moveable Dwellings.

Probably the only virtue of a moveable dwelling used as a substitute for a house is that with all its limitations, it is preferable to that accommodation known to so many young couples today as "rooms" or "living with in-laws." The caravan kitchen facilities may be small but at least they have not to be shared and a degree of privacy and independence is possible.

Often it would appear that whereas the use of the caravan as a permanent means of human habitation is advocated by some manufacturers, from the view point of the Local Authority, the occupants, neighbouring residents and the public health aspect generally, the moveable dwelling must be regarded as a sub-standard dwelling, especially when used with any degree of permanency. This is a problem which viewed nationally will be solved only by the building of traditional houses.

During the year a total of 65 moveable dwellings was licensed by the Council under the Public Health Act, 1936. Of this number 51 were renewals of licences previously issued and represent occupiers who have remained for several years on the same sites.

In the case of one caravan site within the Borough, some 6 or 7 caravans have been stationed there and duly licensed for the past seven years. Although Town Planning permission to increase the number had been refused and no application had been made under the Public Health Act, 1936, towards the middle of the year, additional caravans were gradually brought to this land and at the end of the year a total of 63 dwellings were stationed thereon.

Although all caravans are of the modern trailer type and a piped water supply has been laid on, neither hard standings nor proper approach roads have been made and there is no main drainage.

Each moveable dwelling has a separate chemical closet, the contents of which are emptied into a large newly constructed cesspool in the middle of the site. The position is most unsatisfactory for so great a number of caravans, as is also the lack of means of disposal of waste water.

The Town Planning Authority have been dealing with this problem but at the end of the year negotiations were still pending.

Apart from this site, caravan camping within the Borough presented no difficulties during the year and a total of 1,100 visits were made by the district sanitary inspectors.

#### **Certificates of Disrepair.**

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, is designed primarily to deal with the aspects of maintenance, repair and improvement of existing dwellings, rather than with the provision of new houses. One of its many provisions entitles a landlord, in certain circumstances, to raise the rent, to be known as the "repairs increase." If the tenant considers that the property is not in good repair, he or she may apply to the Local Authority for a Certificate of Disrepair, which if granted, remains in force until the necessary repairs have been carried out and during this interval the tenant is legally entitled to withhold the repairs increase.

The above Act came into operation on the 30th August, 1954, and at the end of the year only 5 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received. Such certificates were eventually issued by the Council in all cases.

#### **Rent Restrictions Certificates.**

There were no applications for certificates as to the condition of repair of dwelling-houses in pursuance of the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts, 1920-1939.

#### **Information re Local Land Charges, etc.**

Information as to statutory orders made in respect of dwelling-houses and as to non-complied-with notices requiring works of repair was supplied in respect of 1,356 properties upon request for official search of the Land Charges Register.

In addition, particulars as to properties were supplied in all cases in which mortgages were being arranged under the Housing Act, 1949, in respect of the purchase of small dwellings.

## **Disinfestation of Verminous Premises.**

There were 68 complaints received concerning dirty or verminous houses and 122 inspections were carried out.

Treatment for the eradication of vermin was carried out at 18 houses including 7 council properties, with the necessary treatment of articles of clothing and bedding at the steam disinfecting station at Chalvey.

## **SECTION C. SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.**

This section of my Report deals not only with the work carried out and improvements accomplished in relation to the hygiene of food premises, the handling of food and its transportation, but also with the day-to-day inspection, the bacteriological control of milk and ice-cream, and the chemical analysis of foods.

Every effort has been made with the means at my disposal, by a reasonably high standard of supervision to ensure that all foods sold within the Borough are fit for human consumption and that the public are protected against false trade descriptions in relation to food offered for sale.

The activities of the Department are summarised under the following headings :—

### **Hygiene of Food Premises and Food Handling.**

Despite increasing pressure of work in the Department, mainly due to housing surveys and the taking over by the Council of the Cippenham Lane Slaughterhouse in July, 1954, it was possible to devote considerable attention to the hygiene of food premises and food handling during the year under review when 3,465 visits were made to premises used for the sale, storage, manufacture or preparation of foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

The standard of cleanliness of these premises was found to be reasonably high, although in matters of food hygiene there is always room for improvement.

Apart from shortages of staff, there are considerable changes of personnel not only as between one firm and another, but also from one type of foodshop to another, and indeed frequent changes in managements. These changes must necessarily affect organisation and routine and therefore constant vigilance involving frequent visiting of all food premises by young officers is essential.

During the year butter was de-rationed, which meant that for the first time in fifteen years the customer was no longer in any way tied to any particular trader. Once again the competitive spirit in business is abroad and "the take or leave it" attitude has been replaced by that of "the customer is always right." This should help the cause of food hygiene, and other things being equal, the cleanest traders will receive, and indeed will deserve the patronage of the increasing number of customers who are becoming clean food minded. The purchaser can make the most effective contribution to food hygiene by refusing to accept food and service which are not the best.

The trade-by-trade food hygiene survey of food premises was continued during the year when 84 grocery premises were subjected to a detailed investigation.

The character of the retail grocery trade has changed in the last 20 years in the respect that almost all items of food sold are pre-packed, that is, they are delivered or handled to the purchaser in the same state as they were received into the shop from the wholesaler. This change has materially contributed to the cause of food hygiene for it is obvious that the less food is handled, the less likelihood there is of contamination.

Bacon, ordinary cheeses, some biscuits and cooked meats, are almost the only foods which are not pre-packed. Attention has been given in all cases where such foods are handled and the circumstances whereby they are displayed for sale. Your officers have insisted that such foods are placed either against rear walls behind counters or if placed upon the counter, they shall be protected by glass screens or covers.

In all food shops the provision of hot and cold water, towels and soap are statutory requirements. In a few instances action has been taken where arrangements for the supply of hot water were not considered to be adequate, but in the main these facilities for personal hand washing were well provided.

The A.B.C. classification of the four food trades so far surveyed was as follows :—

Category*	Catering Establishments	Butchers Shops	Fish Shops	Grocers Shops
A	31	30	5	28
B	31	15	17	51
C	6	2	5	5
Total	68	47	27	84

- A.\* Those establishments at which the premises, methods practised and the personnel are found to be well above the minimum statutory and byelaw requirements, and where encouragement to maintain or even to improve the present standard can be given to advantage.
- B. Establishments at which the hygienic conditions only comply with the minimum statutory and byelaw requirements, but with efforts on an advisory basis a higher standard will no doubt be obtained.
- C. Those premises at which conditions are found to leave much to be desired and to fall below statutory and byelaw requirements. In these cases considerable effort and continual attention by the district sanitary inspector will be necessary for some time to come.

The Food & Drugs Amendment Act, referred to in my last Report, received Royal Assent in 1954, but apart from one section, was not in operation at the end of the year. The new Act provides for the making of regulations concerning food hygiene which it is hoped will strengthen the powers of Local Authorities in this sphere.

Your Chief Sanitary Inspector continued to serve on the Standing Committee of the Royal Sanitary Institute on the Hygiene of Food and Food Equipment and as Chairman of its Sub-Committee which is engaged in formulating codes of practice for the various retail food trades.

### Clean Food Byelaws.

Every opportunity has been taken by the district sanitary inspectors, both when carrying out special food hygiene surveys and during their normal routine visits of food premises, to encourage managements and personnel handling food to observe the provisions of the "Byelaws relating to the Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions and Practices in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food," which were made by the Borough Council in 1950.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings under the Byelaws.

### Milk and Dairies.

Careful attention was given to the three establishments licensed by the Corporation at which the bulk of the Borough milk supply was pasteurised. Actually, these dairies serve a much wider area than the Borough including the supply of school milk, but a part of the town's supply is pasteurised and bottled at premises outside the Borough. Towards the end of the year under review, the smallest of these premises ceased to be used for that purpose and became a distribution depot.

The whole of the town's milk supply is now delivered by retail in securely capped bottles and retail sales are in accordance with the Ministry of Food Order of 1953, which declared the Borough to be included in "Specified Area."

There were forty-eight persons registered by the Corporation as Distributors of Milk and eight premises as dairies. The district sanitary inspectors made 147 inspections of dairies which were found to be maintained to a satisfactory hygienic standard. Few complaints were received concerning foreign bodies in milk or concerning the misuse of milk bottles.

Again, I would record appreciation of the measure of co-operation of milk traders with the work of your sanitary inspectors. This is a valuable contribution to the standard which we spare no effort to maintain.

Sixty-nine licences were granted permitting the use of a special designation in relation to milk; they were as follows :—

Dealers (Pasteuriser's) Licences	.....	.....	.....	3
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences	.....	.....	.....	9
Dealer's Pasteurised Milk Licences	.....	.....	.....	11
Dealer's Sterilised Milk Licences	.....	.....	.....	42
Supplementary Licences	.....	.....	.....	4

### Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

The routine examination of milk, which was carried out with regularity throughout the year, was an important part of our activities in relation to the control of milk supplies.

One hundred and seventy-three samples of milk were procured from dairies, shops, and in the course of retail delivery, and examined for bacteriological quality and the efficiency of heat treatment. The results have established a record, for all samples proved to be satisfactory, and this I feel confirms the steady and persistent efforts of your officers over many years. One sincerely hopes that this standard will be maintained.

Returns of samples of milk procured at licensed pasteurising establishments were made to the Ministry of Food, Milk Division.

The milks examined were as follows :—

TABLE No. 4.  
Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Classification	Number of Samples Tested	Number of Samples	
		Passed	Failed
Pasteurised Milk	102	102	-
Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	52	52	-
Tuberculin-Tested Milk	8	8	-
Sterilised Milk	11	11	-
Non-designated, raw Milk	-	-	-

### Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice-Cream.

Ice-cream has come to be an every-day commodity in the life of the community and therefore its manufacture, storage and sale is a matter which demands much attention.

At the end of the year there were 7 premises registered for the manufacture and storage of ice-cream and 154 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream. Eleven new applications for registration of retailers' premises were granted during the year.

In addition to the frequent inspection of registered premises, 125 samples of ice-cream were procured for bacteriological examination and these included samples from cafes and cinemas. Only four of these samples failed to pass the test. There can be little doubt that the reasonably good results obtained are due, not only to the care and standard of hygiene observed in manufacture, but also to the increasing practice of pre-packing this commodity in wrappers and cartons at the place of manufacture.

### Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Foods.

Forty-six premises used for the above purposes, including 19 fish friers' premises are registered in pursuance of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The district sanitary inspectors regularly inspected these premises which were found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

### Bakehouses .

Premises on Register	11
Inspection by District Sanitary Inspectors	42
Notices served re Contraventions	3

During the year one large bakery was closed down.

## Food and Drugs (Compositional standard and quality).

In pursuance to the statutory duty of the Borough Council as the "Food and Drugs Authority" for their district, to administer those parts of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relating to compositional standards and quality of foods and drugs, the sampling officers procured 594 samples of foods and drugs representing 8.9 samples per thousand of the estimated population of the Borough, as compared with 601 samples during the previous year.

Two hundred and one samples were submitted to the Public Analyst appointed by the Borough Council, Mr. Eric Voelcker, A.R.C.S., F.I.C., and the remainder were examined at the Department laboratory or by the sampling officers. They were as follows :—

Milks	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	268
Spirits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Ice-cream	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	113

In the course of sampling careful attention was given to the commodities manufactured at food factories within the Borough. Samples of milk were procured upon delivery at establishments within the Borough, of the Windsor Group Hospital Management Committee.

The average chemical quality of the milk samples examined was fat 3.81% and solids not fat 8.67% which is above the prescribed minimum standard.

Table No. 5 gives information as to the various articles of foods and drugs which were submitted for analysis. The Public Analyst gave adverse reports upon 17 samples or 8.5% of the samples submitted to him as compared with 3.8% in 1953.

It was not found necessary to institute summary proceedings during the year. Table No. 6 sets out particulars of the action taken in respect of samples upon which adverse reports were received from the Public Analyst.

### Preservatives and Colouring Matter.

One hundred and four samples of foods were examined by the Public Analyst for the presence of prohibited preservative and colouring matter. Of these four were found to be unsatisfactory (see Table No. 6).

### Labelling and Advertising.

A careful watch was kept for labels attached to, or advertisements in respect of foods containing exaggerated statements intended falsely to describe the commodity or otherwise to mislead the purchaser as to the nature, substance or quality of the article and particularly as to its nutritional or dietary value. This included scrutiny of newspapers and various weekly publications. From time to time as foods manufactured within the Borough of Slough are submitted for analysis, the labels are also carefully checked.

**Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.**

No action was found to be necessary.

**Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887-1953.**

It was not found necessary to institute proceedings in respect of contraventions. Observations were made as to compliance with the various Orders relating to the marking of imported foods offered for sale.

TABLE No. 5.

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst					Procured		Adulterated	
					Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
<b>FOODS :</b>								
Almonds, ground	.....	.....	.....	.....	2			
Arrowroot	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Baking powder	.....	.....	.....	.....	2			
Banana spread	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Barley water, lemon	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Beef, corned	.....	.....	.....	.....		1		
Blancmange powder	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Brisling, Norwegian	.....	.....	.....	.....		1		
Bubble gum	.....	.....	.....	.....		1		
Butter	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	1		
Cherries, glace	.....	.....	.....	.....	4			
Cinnamon, ground	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Coffee	.....	.....	.....	.....	4			
Coffee spread	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Cornflour	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Crab, tinned	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Curry powder	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Custard powder	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Fat, cooking	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1		
Flour, self raising	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Food drinks	.....	.....	.....	.....	3			
Fruit drinks	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	2		
Fruit, tinned	.....	.....	.....	.....		5		
Glucose spread	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Gravy powder	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Honey	.....	.....	.....	.....		1		
Jam	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	4		
Jelly, table	.....	.....	.....	.....	2			
Lard, pure	.....	.....	.....	.....	2			
Lemons	.....	.....	.....	.....		1		
Lemon Curd	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1		
Oranges	.....	.....	.....	.....		9		4
Malted Milk Tablets	.....	.....	.....	.....		1		
Margarine	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	3		
Marmalade	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Marzipan	.....	.....	.....	.....	4			
Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....		12		11
Peel, mixed cut	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Pepper, white	.....	.....	.....	.....	4			
Powders, cake and pudding	.....	.....	.....	.....	3			
Sage	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Salt, garlic	.....	.....	.....	.....		1		
Sausages, beef	.....	.....	.....	.....	13			
Sausages, pork	.....	.....	.....	.....	15			
Sausage meat, pork	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Tea	.....	.....	.....	.....	3			
Sultanas	.....	.....	.....	.....		1		
Sugar confectionery	.....	.....	.....	.....	19	7		
Vinegar	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			
Wafers, biscuit	.....	.....	.....	.....	3			
Wholemeal loaf	.....	.....	.....	.....	1			

TABLE No. 5 (contd.).

## Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst

	Procured		Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
<b>DRUGS :</b>				
Anti-grippe		1		
Anti-smoking tablets	2			
Bi-carbonate of soda	2			
Boracic acid B.P. powder	2		2	
Bronchial mixture	1			
Catarrh & Bronchial mixture	1			
Cherry Flavoured Cough Syrup	1			
Cooling powders	1			
Epsom salts	1			
Glycerin Lemon & Ipecac	1			
Horehound & Honey Cough Balsam	1			
Influenza & Cold mixture	1			
Teething powders	1			
Tonic syrup	1			
<b>TOTAL FOODS :</b>	131	53	-	15
<b>TOTAL DRUGS :</b>	16	1	2	-
<b>TOTAL FOOD AND DRUGS :</b>	147	54	2	15

In addition to the above-mentioned samples, 12 unofficial samples of spirits, 13 unofficial samples of ice-cream and 268 unofficial samples of milk were tested informally, of which 87 samples of milk were found to be sub-standard. Repeated check samples showed that the majority of these samples were genuine and with the exception of those samples mentioned in Table No. 6 the presence of added water was not confirmed.

TABLE No. 6.

## Food and Drugs Samples Reported not to be Genuine

Sample No.	Food or Drug	Adulteration	Action taken
31 (Informal)	Oranges	Contained Thiourea, a prohibited preservative	This matter was dealt with on a national basis.
34 "	Oranges	" "	
35 "	Oranges	" "	
37 "	Oranges	" "	
54 (Informal)	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. No added water.	
316 "	Milk	Added water 2%.	Follow-up samples were satisfactory. One case was referred to the County Milk Production Officer and steps were taken to improve the quality of the milk.
317 "	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. (8.43%). No added water.	
410 "	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. (8.10%). No added water.	
411 "	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. (8.23%). No added water.	
412 "	Milk	Added water 2.2%.	
413 "	Milk	Added water 2.8%.	
437 "	Milk	Deficient in fat 3.3% and solids-not-fat (8.17%)	
438 "	Milk	Deficient in fat 3.3% and solids-not-fat (8.17%)	
488 "	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat (8.43%).	
489 "	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat (8.15%).	
319 (Formal)	Boric Acid B.P. Powder	No added water in samples Nos. 437, 438, 488, 489.	Failed to comply with the British Pharmacopoeia 1953.
424 (Formal)	Boric Acid B.P. Powder	Failed to comply with the British Pharmacopoeia 1953.	

## **Foreign Bodies in Foodstuffs.**

It was again necessary to investigate a number of complaints from members of the public regarding the presence of extraneous matter in food sold by retail.

Although none of these was sufficiently serious to justify the institution of proceedings, the persons responsible were interviewed and reprimanded. It is, of course, safe to assume that there were other similar instances which were not reported to the Department, but those which were indicate that the public generally are alive to the necessity for vigilance in securing clean and wholesome food, and to such public-spirited persons I wish to record my appreciation for their co-operation.

## **Public Slaughterhouse.**

It will be recalled that for some 15 years the slaughterhouse at Cippenham Lodge Farm had been operated by the Ministry of Food. Early in 1954, however, the Government announced that as from 2nd July the rationing of meat would end and the control of meat and livestock by the Ministry of Food would cease.

Local Authorities were made responsible for ensuring that adequate slaughtering facilities were provided within their areas for the supply of home killed meat. The Health and Sanitation Committee considered that the most satisfactory method of fulfilling their obligations, was to negotiate with the Ministry of Works and the owners of Cippenham Lodge Slaughterhouse, to secure an assignment of the lease with a view to operating the premises as a Public Slaughterhouse. After considerable negotiation including discussions with local butchers the Council took over the control of the premises and as from 2nd July they were operated as a Public Slaughterhouse.

Your Chief Sanitary Inspector was appointed as Manager of the Slaughterhouse. In addition to carrying out meat inspection duties on a rota system each district sanitary inspector on duty for the time being acts as superintendent, being in attendance from 9 a.m. until the premises close in the evening. In this way, the Council being in control, have a full-time representative on duty continuously.

From July to the end of the year the Slaughterhouse was in full use for 5 days of the week, and it is believed that the throughput was going a long way towards meeting the needs of the Borough as regards home killed supplies.

The premises are inadequate in size and facilities generally, but the present arrangements may be regarded as a short term measure pending a decision and eventual implementation of the Government's policy as to the siting of Slaughterhouses, the Council having already agreed in principle the erection of a modern Slaughterhouse.

## **Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.**

It is satisfactory to be able to report that during the year it was possible to carry out one hundred per cent. inspection of 12,866 animals slaughtered for human consumption at the Cippenham Lodge Farm Slaughterhouse, including some 200 casualty animals.

Six hundred and ninety-one visits were made to the Slaughterhouse for that purpose, which included attendance outside normal working hours, and during the first half of the year on Sundays. All those officers of the Department who carry out these duties possess the qualification of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

I wish to record my appreciation of the co-operation of the Ministry of Food officials and the slaughtering contractor with your officers for the period ending July, 1954, in the Department's effort to secure hygienic conditions in the processes of slaughtering and preparation of meat.

Some 22 tons of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption (see Table 8) and were disposed of satisfactorily.

Although there is one shop which is used solely for the retail sale of horseflesh, no horses were slaughtered within the Borough.

Two hundred and twenty-eight visits for the purpose of examination of foods, other than butchers' meat were made at retail shops, warehouses and factories, when some  $8\frac{1}{2}$  tons of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption and destroyed by the Department (see Table 9). One thousand and ninety condemnation certificates were issued in respect of unsound meat and other foods.

Apart from the increased volume of meat involved, since July, 1954, when the control of meat buying ceased, more vehicles and men have been engaged in the handling and transporting of smaller quantities of meat, and consequently closer attention has been necessary in this matter.

### **Meat Transport.**

All vehicles used in this district for the delivery of meat to retail butchers have been subject to observation and inspection during the year, and in general there has been little cause for complaint. The ideal vehicle specially designed and equipped for this purpose has not yet been brought into use locally. Protective clothing worn by men engaged in meat delivery has been maintained in a clean condition.

TABLE No. 7.  
Slough Public Slaughterhouse.

Summary of Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Calves
No. of animals slaughtered and inspected .....	2,559	418	5,351	3,460	1,078
Disease except tuberculosis : Whole carcasses condemned .....	2	3	11	39	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	708	142	272	158	5
% of No. Inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis .....	27.7	34.7	5.3	5.7	1.1
Tuberculosis : Whole carcasses condemned .....	13	8	-	6	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	210	105	-	61	-
% of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	8.7	27.0	-	1.9	-

TABLE No. 8.

Weights of Condemned Meat

Carcases .....	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcases .....	122	-	4	65	1	16
Parts of Carcasses or Organs .....	121	3	2	137	3	3
TOTALS .....	243	3	6	203	-	19

TOTAL WEIGHT : 22 tons 6 cwts. 3 qrs. 25 lbs.

TABLE No. 9.

Weights of Canned and Other Foods Condemned as unfit for Human Consumption lbs.					
Canned Food	Preserved	Fish	Bacon	Imported Meat	Vegetables
14,292	110	211	82	433	22
Fruit	Cereals	Eggs (No.)	Cheese	Manufactured Meats Rabbits, etc.	Misc.
855	263	10	106	166	2,606
TOTAL WEIGHT: 8 tons 10 cwts. 3 qrs. 22 lbs.					

### Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 and 1951.

During the year 11 licences were renewed and 1 new licence was granted to enable the holders to slaughter animals for food.

The captive bolt type of humane killer is used for the stunning of all animals at the Public Slaughterhouse, and no infringements of the above Acts were reported. Following the new arrangements at the Slaughterhouse, whereby an officer is on duty throughout the period of killing it is possible to keep a more vigilant eye on any likely offenders in this respect.

## SECTION D.

### FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND SHOPS.

#### Factories.

There are some 523 factories on the register of the Corporation, these range from places at which only a few persons are employed to premises used for large scale production and although much of this industry is situated at the Slough Trading Estate, there are a number of large factories in other parts of the Borough. Consequently, it is not surprising that a large number of the inhabitants both of the Borough and of adjoining districts are engaged in our factory works and offices.

The work carried out by the district sanitary inspectors in their inspection of factories, is for the purpose, not only of ensuring that the premises comply with the provisions of the Factories Act which it is the duty of the District Council to enforce (except provisions relating to means of escape

n case of fire), but also for other purposes in which the remedy is under the Public Health Act. These include such matters as the defective structure of buildings, abatement of nuisances arising from the emission of excessive dust, etc., of the emanation of unpleasant odours arising in manufacture, and alleged nuisances from noise. In most of these cases it is found that the occupier of the factory concerned is only too anxious to co-operate in remedial measures.

All plans of proposed factory and other buildings submitted to the Borough Council for approval under the Planning and Building Byelaws are examined by the Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, from the angle of the Factories Act and Public Health Act, etc. My opinion upon proposed industrial developments and new processes are from time to time asked for by the Area Planning Officer. This, I feel, is most valuable liaison.

In the course of their visits to factories, the district sanitary inspectors also inspect the canteens, mess-rooms and kitchens which are now provided at many factories, for the purpose of examining the standard of hygiene in relation to the premises and food handling and, in fact, this often forms a principal part of the visit.

Tables 10 and 11 (below) as to the inspection and remedying of defects at factories, are the particulars contained in the annual return to the Ministry of Labour and National Service. The figures shewn therein include matters carried forward from the previous year.

TABLE No. 10.  
Inspection of Factories.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	39	26	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	484	381	9	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL :	523	407	9	Nil

TABLE No. 11.  
Improvements Effected at Factories.

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Fnd.  (2)	Remedied  (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .....	2	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) .....	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient .....	-	2	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	21	39	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against Act (not including offences relating to Outworker )	2	1	1	1	-
TOTAL .....	25	42	1	1	Nil

### Homework.

Lists received in February and August, 1954, from employers at Factories within the Borough, in pursuance of Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937, returned particulars of 132 homeworkers in certain specified occupations, principally the making and altering of wearing apparel. Analysis of the returns showed that homework was carried out at 61 premises within the Borough. Twenty-nine lists in respect of 71 outworkers were sent to local authorities in widespread parts of the country and five lists of outworkers were received from other local authorities.

Periodical inspection was made of the premises at which homework was carried out and in all cases conditions were found to be satisfactory.

During the year the Health and Sanitation Committee became concerned at reports of a local firm manufacturing chewing-gum, giving out their product to be wrapped by persons in their respective homes. There was also some public protest at this practice. As the processes involved in respect of the article in question are not included in the Order which specifies the classes of work to which the Factories Act, 1937, in relation to

homework applies, and that chewing-gum was not a "food" within the meaning of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, effective control was not possible. Visits were, however, made by the district sanitary inspector to the various homes involved and advice was tendered. The views of the Borough Council were forwarded to official quarters and eventually the practice ceased.

### Drinking Water Supply.

A certificate of approval of drinking water supply was granted in respect of one factory, in pursuance of Section 41 of the Factories Act, 1937.

### Shops Act, 1950, and Young Persons Employment Act, 1938.

Frequent inspections were made of premises used as shops and the provisions of the Acts were found to be well observed and generally traders were co-operative.

#### (a) *Inspections :*

Arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers	425
Conditions of employment	94
Hours of employment of Young Persons	32
Hours of closing	37
Sunday trading	119

#### (b) *Improvements Effected at Shops :*

Improved Sanitary Accommodation	24
Improved washing facilities	29
Improved lighting or heating	36
Improved facilities for taking meals	5
Notices displayed	6
Contraventions remedied re employment of Young Persons	5

### Trading Elsewhere than in Shops.

During the year difficulty was experienced in dealing with street trading on Sundays, when such activities, if carried on at a retail shop, would have constituted a contravention of the Shops Act, 1950. At the present time the law on this matter is very unsatisfactory, and one hopes that the position will shortly be remedied by new legislation.

### Workplaces.

In addition to the inspection of premises on the register of Factories, visits are also made to workplaces, including offices, 42 inspections being made of such premises.

### Places of Entertainment.

Five inspections were made of buildings used for the purpose of public entertainment.

## SECTION E.

### GENERAL SANITATION.

#### Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement.

As a modern industrial area making extensive use of electric power, atmospheric pollution within the Borough cannot be said to constitute a problem, as indeed is the position in many long established industrial regions.

There are, however, several factories where power is raised by steam and many of them are equipped with appliances for indicating and preventing the emission of smoke. The Department gives immediate attention on the occasions when excessive emissions of smoke occur.

During the year under review 15 complaints were received concerning smoke and associated problems as a result of which 115 smoke observations were made and in addition 71 special visits were paid to factories for the purpose of investigation and discussion with executives, engineers and stokers.

Your Chief and Deputy Chief Officers each hold the special qualification of the Royal Sanitary Institute as smoke inspectors and they attend personally to those problems of smoke emission which arise from time to time.

The Corporation, through your chairman and myself are represented on the National Smoke Abatement Society and the Home Counties Smoke Abatement Advisory Committee. A member of your Committee and my Deputy attended the Annual Conference of the former organisation which in 1954 was held at Scarborough.

During the year the Council implemented Section 106 of the Slough Corporation Act, 1949, which deals with the prevention of smoke from industrial furnaces. Before installing a furnace to which this section applies, the proposal including plans and particulars, is submitted to the Corporation. Within a period of six weeks the Corporation must serve notice on the proposer stating whether or not they are satisfied that the installation is, so far as practicable, capable of being operated continuously without emitting smoke.

Although the scheme, appropriately termed "Prior Approval," is quite voluntary, every effort is made by your officers to encourage proposals to make application in respect of all new installations to which this Section applies.

Under this scheme, which operated from 1st June 1954, the Corporation by the end of the year had given "Prior Approval" in respect of the following industrial fuel consuming plant:—

- |               |                                                         |                                                |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| (1) June      | Messrs. Imperial Chemical Industries,<br>Wexham Road    | Oil-fired<br>Economic boiler<br>100ft. chimney |
| (2) September | Messrs. Rolex Paper Co. Ltd.,<br>165, Berkshire Avenue. | Oil-fired<br>Steam raising<br>plant.           |

(3) September Messrs. Veedip Ltd.,  
St. Helens Works.

Steam raising  
plant at No. 2  
factory.

(4) September Messrs. Capseals Ltd.,  
Weston Road.

Incinerator.

In each of these cases the Council have received the assistance of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service (N.I.F.E.S.) who have agreed to examine proposals and give technical advice in connection with all applications for "Prior Approval." I wish to record my appreciation of the services of the Area Engineer of N.I.F.E.S., who has readily co-operated in this respect.

In November, 1954, the Committee on Air Pollution (Beaver Committee) presented its final report to Parliament. This is a valuable and very comprehensive document from which it is clear that the "Committee" have delved into every aspect of atmospheric pollution—industrial, domestic, railway, motor vehicle, etc.

The Report makes some 27 recommendations, many of which entail legislation. It suggests the setting up of a "Clean Air Council" to co-ordinate and encourage research work and to review the progress made in implementing any new legislation.

It is interesting to note that in general the "Committee" accepted the principle that prevention of air pollution can best be enforced by local authorities on the spot, and that they should continue to administer the statutory provisions.

Although there has certainly been an advance in public opinion following the "Beaver Report," there is still a great barrier of apathy to penetrate towards the prevention of atmospheric pollution, and in addition to legislation which cannot now be long delayed it is necessary for those actively engaged with the problems to re-double their efforts in education and publicity.

### Offensive Trades.

A soap boiler and a rag and bone dealer were the only offensive trades scheduled under the Public Health Act, 1936. The annual consent of the Corporation was granted in each case, and throughout the year the premises were found to be well maintained.

### House Drainage.

Some 156 complaints by householders were received, concerning defective drains and sanitary fittings and as a result 797 visits were made for the purpose of investigation and testing, and eventually supervision of remedial works in progress.

Drainage systems were re-constructed at 26 premises and other sanitary improvements were effected at 133 premises.

### Water Supply.

It is pleasing to be able to report that by the end of 1954, only 3 houses were not installed with a public water supply, 4 houses having been connected to the mains during the year.

Your officers made 53 visits in connection with water supplies during the year and the following samples were obtained :—

Domestic water supplies	.....	.....	14
Swimming water bath samples	.....	.....	35

### **Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.**

Premises are registered in accordance with the above Act and Regulations made thereunder, for the use of specified filling materials in bedding and upholstery manufacture, and one premises was licensed for the storage of rag flock. Upon inspection all these premises were found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

## **SECTION F.**

### **PEST INFESTATION CONTROL AND DISINFECTION.**

The important work of the Pest Infestation Section has been energetically pursued by the Pest Control Officer and his team of rodent operators and outside assistants. It is generally recognised that responsibility for ensuring that premises are kept free of vermin and other pests is, of course, that of the occupier and every opportunity is taken to encourage occupiers in the discharge of this duty, by the giving of advice and undertaking treatment on their behalf.

The section is well-equipped and maintained to carry out efficiently the necessary measures for the elimination of pest infestation of all kinds which may occur within the Borough. This work includes the destruction of rats and mice and insect pests at private dwellings, industrial and business premises, in sewers and at premises of the Local Authority. Occasionally the Pest Control Section is called upon to deal with wild rabbits, squirrels, moles, etc.

#### **Rodent Control.**

The public continue increasingly to realise the value of early notification of rodent infestation. During the year 351 notifications of rat infestation and 90 notifications of mice infestations were received and investigated. The district sanitary inspectors and pest control officer made 3,627 visits in investigating complaints, and in ascertaining the effectiveness of the treatment carried out by the rodent operators, also in supervising the rat-proofing of 71 dwelling-houses and 126 business premises. The work of the rodent operators is summarised in Table No. 14.

I am pleased again to report the absence of any "reservoir" or "major" infestation within the Borough, and also that it was not found necessary to resort to formal action in pursuance of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

#### **Treatment of Sewers.**

The systematic treatment of sewers in accordance with the recommendations of the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was carried out twice during the year. Particulars of this work are shewn in Table No. 14, from which it will be seen that very little rodent infestation occurs in the public sewers of Slough.

### Workable Area Committee.

The Borough Council continued to be represented on the Workable Area Committee for the Authorities of South Bucks and East Berks, by the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Health Committee and your Chief Sanitary Inspector.

### Annual Agreement Scheme.

This scheme, which is intended to meet the needs of industrial and business firms within the Borough, by providing initial treatment for the elimination of rodent infestation and afterwards regular servicing to ensure that premises remain free of infestation has continued to prove popular, is expanding and entirely self-supporting.

Table No. 13 shews the progress of the Annual Agreement Scheme since its inception in 1949. There can be no doubt that it has greatly simplified pest infestation control and gives an assurance that infestation occurring at any of the premises of the many participating firms will immediately come to the notice of my Pest Infestation Control Section.

TABLE No. 13.

Annual Agreement Scheme			
Year	No. of Agreements	No. of separate Premises involved	Total Sum £
1949/50	55	77	754
1950/51	92	131	1,054
1951/52	120	151	1,463
1952/53	130	163	1,488
1953/54	132	160	1,531
1954/55	141	189	1,670

### Other Pests.

Complaints were received and treatment was given for the extermination of pests in the following cases :—

Rabbits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Squirrels	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Moles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Beetles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Wasps	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26
Flies	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Other Pests	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22

## Disinfestation of Verminous Premises and Disinfection.

The disinfecting station at the Chalvey Pumping Station continued to be used for the steam treatment of bedding and other articles, the supply of steam being obtained from the adjoining refuse destructor plant.

The work carried out under the superintendence of the Pest Control Officer was as follows :—

Premises disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Bedding and other articles disinfected by steam	.....				12
Premises disinfested of vermin	.....	.....	.....		19
Articles disinfected by steam	.....	.....	.....		21

TABLE No. 14.  
RODENT INFESTATION CONTROL (RODENT OPERATORS)

	Private Dwellings	Business Premises		Sewer Treatment (Manholes)	Refuse Destructor, Tips, Dumps, etc.	Parks, Hedges, Ditches, etc.	Other Council Properties	TOTALS
		Annual Agreement Scheme	Short Term Action					
1. Premises at which investigation was made .....	1,231	260	62	565	4	12	16	2,150
2. Premises treated by the Corporation .....	916	181	62	565	4	8	5	1,941
3. Pre-Baits Laid .....	7,337	23,325	746	565	755	345	256	33,289
4. Poison Baits Laid .....	3,461	20,869	723	12	441	200	168	25,874
5. Poison Baits Taken .....	2,467	3,803	393	7	288	123	115	7,126
6. No. of Visits Made .....	4,793	6,878	224	456	199	298	172	13,020

## SECTION G. MISCELLANEOUS

### **Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928-1936.**

In the carrying out of their duties under the above Acts, your officers are always confronted with the importance of this work, having regard to the fire-risk involved.

Following the Borough Council's review in 1953 of the conditions to be attached to licences permitting the use of premises for the storage of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures, it has since been possible to bring the revised conditions into operation. This has involved the approval of plans for all premises which are licensed for storage, and in many instances the effecting of improvements to the premises and installations.

It is anticipated that the examination of the associated electrical equipment of petrol service pumps will be carried out by the Southern Electricity Board on behalf of the Borough Council, during 1955/6.

Your officers appointed under the Petroleum (Regulations) Acts 1928-1936, carried out 959 inspections of licensed premises and as a result 55 contraventions of the Acts were remedied. The assistance given by the Buckinghamshire Fire Service, Fire Prevention Dept., has been most valuable in finding solutions to the many problems with which your officers have dealt.

At the close of 1954, there were 154 premises licensed for the storage of 572,184 gallons of petroleum spirit and mixtures and 3 licences for the storage of 9,884 lbs. of carbide of calcium.

### **Registries of Female Domestic Servants.**

There were four persons conducting domestic bureaux registered by the Corporation, one new application having been made during the year. The Byelaws of the Corporation for controlling this class of business have been well observed.

### **Registration of Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Stores.**

No contraventions in relation to this matter were observed.

### **Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.**

The provisions of the Act and Regulations made thereunder, have been well complied with, for manufacturers of heating appliances produce articles carefully designed in accordance with the specified statutory conditions.

### **Licensing of Game Dealers.**

Twelve licences were granted to dealers authorising the buying and selling of game by virtue of the Game Act, 1831.

### **Hackney Carriages.**

Thirty hackney carriages were licensed during the year and 7 transfer licences and 42 hackney carriage drivers' licences were granted.

The consulting engineers appointed by the Corporation carried out the examination of 35 hackney carriages. Some 272 visits were made by officers of the Department and the Byelaws made by the Corporation were found to be well observed.